

MHAC
Policy/Legislative Subcommittee Meeting
October 2, 2009
Telephone Conference Call
9:30 a.m. EST

MHAC Attendees: Lucie Ferguson, Claudie Tellez

MHAC Absent: Michael Pyles, Rudy Wilson

OMHPHP and VDH Staff: Susan Triggs

Public Attendees: None

Welcome

/Introductions: Attendees were welcomed by the Chair and introduced themselves

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the July 14, 2009 meeting were approved
Attendees decided that a quorum is not necessary with such a small subcommittee membership.

Subcommittee Relevance

Attendees discussed whether the time for this subcommittee should be disbanded because it work is complete. There are so few people consistently attending. Are others interested in participating on this subcommittee? Can non-MHAC members be invited? Susan reminded the group that their purpose is to advise the Commissioner of Health who appointed each member. These questions will be brought before the larger MHAC group on October 13, 2009.

Healthcare Insurance Reform

Lucie Ferguson sent submitted the suggested health insurance reform information from the Catholic Health Association as noted below.

Recommendations for principles of health reform that emphasize health equity. The Catholic Health Association suggests that Health Care in the United States should be:

- Available and Accessible to everyone – paying special attention to the poor and vulnerable
- Health and prevention oriented – with the goal of enhancing the health status of communities
- Sufficiently and fairly financed – the system should share the responsibility of financing among all stakeholders and care for those who cannot help themselves by having all stakeholders, including government, employers, individuals, charitable organizations, and health care providers, collectively assume responsibility
- Transparent and consensus driven in allocation of resources, and organized for cost-effective care and administration
- Patient-centered and designed to address health needs at all stages of life, from conception to natural death
- Safe, effective and designed to deliver the greatest possible quality.

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Attendees suggested that these could be used as a “jumping off point” for whatever is wanted by the whole subcommittee. The suggestion was made that recommendations need to focus on health equity as noted in articles authored by Steven Woolf, David Satcher, and others (Satcher, D et al., 2007); Woolf, S. H., Johnson, R. E., Phillips, R. L. Jr, & Philipsen, M., 2007). The articles discuss the increase in technology to mortality rates of African American and whites and determined that health equity has had more of an impact on mortality rates than technology over the same period.

Medicaid Reimbursement Changes in Virginia

Will minorities be disproportionately affected by changes to the healthcare system in Virginia? Lucie will send Susan information on “Healthcare for All Virginians”.

Other Concerns

Lucie Ferguson has concerns about the Joker picture of President Obama. She will make a recommendation at the MHAC meeting that the VDH Commissioner take a stand on this issue.

Public Comment

None

Meeting Adjourned

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting

Date and time to be announced.

References

- Satcher, D., Fryer, G.E. Jr., McCann, J., Troutman, A., Woolf, S.H., & Rust, G. (2005). What If We Were Equal? A Comparison Of The Black-White Mortality Gap In 1960 And 2000. *Health Affairs*, 24(2), 469-464.
- Woolf, S. H., Johnson, R. E., Phillips, R. L. Jr, & Philipsen, M. (2007). Giving Everyone the Health of the Educated: An Examination of Whether Social Change Would Save More Lives Than Medical Advances. *American Journal of Public Health*, 97(4), 679-683.